

CLAIMS

1. An information security system comprising a computer system responsive to the presence of an identifiable entity to permit access to the computer system and to transmit signals to at least one other linked locking mechanism to cause said locking mechanism to release whereby access controlled by said at least one other locking mechanism is specifically permitted while said computer system is validly accessible.
2. An information security system as claimed in claim 1 in which the locking mechanism includes timing means which in the absence of periodic release signals inhibits access after a predetermined time period expires.
3. An information security system as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2 in which a plurality of locking mechanisms each controlling access to a respective entity are provided.
4. An information security system as claimed in claim 1, claim 2 or claim 3 in which the or at one of said locking mechanisms is associated with a respective lockable physical object.
5. An information security system as claimed in claim 1, claim 2 or claim 3 in which the or at one of said locking mechanisms is associated with a respective electronic or electrical equipment whereby use of such electronic or electrical equipment is only permitted while an authorised user is present.
6. An information security system as claimed in any preceding claim in association with telecommunications control means arranged to control usage of communication lines whereby telephony or facsimile transmission may be inhibited in the absence of an appropriately authorised user.
7. An information security system as claimed in any preceding claim in association with telecommunications control means arranged to control usage of

communication lines whereby telephony or facsimile transmission is limited in usage to prevent certain categories of call or communication.

8. An information security system as claimed in any preceding claim including  
5 shared facilities responsive to signals from a plurality of computers each responsive to a respective identifiable entity to permit usage of such shared facilities.

9. An information security system as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 4 in which the or each locking mechanism is also responsive to signals from an alternative  
10 source to permit access without requiring access to a computer of the system.

10. An information security system as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 4 or claim 9 in which the locking mechanism is in wired communication with the controlling computer.

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11. An information security system as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 9 in which the or each controlling computer includes radio transmission arrangements whereby following authorised access the computer causes periodic transmission of coded release signals whereby correspondingly coded radio transmission receivers  
20 linked provide release instructions to respective locking mechanisms.

12. An information security system as claimed in claim 11 in which the transmission of release signals from a computer may be inhibited if the computer enters a temporary inhibition of access.

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13. An information security system as claimed in claim 12 in which the transmission of release signals is inhibited in the absence of entry of data thereto for a predetermined period.

30 14. An information security system as claimed in any preceding claim in association with an environmental control arrangement whereby at least one of lighting, heating and ventilation are controlled in dependence upon the presence or absence of one or more users.

15. An information security system as claimed in any preceding claim in which at least one of said locking mechanisms requires the presence of more than one authorised individual.

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16. An information security system as claimed in any preceding claim in which the computer system is linked to a telecommunications system and transmits information defining the identity of the authorised user present whereby associated telephony devices receive facilities and communications appropriate to the respective 10 identified authorised user.

17. An office environment comprising at least one computer and at least one linked lockable device, the computer being responsive to an authorised identifiable entity to effect unlocking of the lockable device to permit access to the device while 15 said identifiable entity is present.